

Message Text

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ACTION MMO-02

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FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1759

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OGEN
SUBJECT: PEACE CORPS - STATE DEPARTMENT RELATIONS

REF: STATE 88322

1. FOLLOWING WAS DRAFTED BY AMBASSADOR PRIOR TO HIS
DEPARTURE APRIL 15.

2. I HAVE REVIEWED REFTEL WITH PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR AND
WE AGREE THAT POLICIES OUTLINED THEREIN TO GOVERN
EMBASSY-PEACE CORPS RELATIONS AND OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK
WITHIN WHICH PEACE CORPS BUSINESS IN NEPAL SHOULD
BE CONDUCTED ARE HAPPILY IN FORCE HERE. WE HAVE NO
POLICY DIFFERENCES OF ANY KIND. TO THE CONTRARY,
MY RELATIONS WITH PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR AND HIS STAFF
AND CONTACT BETWEEN EMBASSY AND PEACE CORPS ARE
CLOSE, WITH EACH ELEMENT REINFORCING THE OTHER AS
NECESSARY AND WITH PEACE CORPS OPERATING LARGELY TO ITS
OWN. ITS ACTIVITIES ARE SUPPORTIVE OF US OBJECTIVES
AND POLICIES IN NEPAL AND IN FACT CONTRIBUTE
SIGNIFICANTLY TO THEIR ACHIEVEMENT AND TO EXCELLENT
STATE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN NEPAL AND US.

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3. NEPAL AND PEACE CORPS ARE IDEALLY SUITED FOR
EACH OTHER, AND OVER THE YEARS LITERALLY THOUSANDS
OF VOLUNTEERS HAVE CONTRIBUTED THEIR ENTHUSIASM
AND TALENTS TO OUR OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL EFFORT IN NEPAL
AND HAVE RECEIVED AS MUCH AS THEY HAVE GIVEN,
RETURNING TO THE US AS UNOFFICIAL AMBASSADORS OF
NEPAL IN OUR COUNTRY.

4. CURRENT PEACE CORPS PROGRAMS IN NEPAL ARE ENTIRELY CONSISTENT WITH BOTH GON AND US PRIORITIES OF CONCENTRATING ON BASIC HUMAN NEEDS, PARTICULARLY IN RURAL AREAS, AND ON DEALING WITH PROBLEMS OF ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION. THIS EMPHASIS HAS FULL SUPPORT AND ENDORSEMENT OF GON, WHICH IS ITSELF COMMITTED TO IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE FOR MAJORITY OF NEPALESE WHO ARE FOUND IN RURAL AREAS. FURTHER, PEACE CORPS IS RESPECTED AND ITS RELATIONS WITH GON ARE GOOD. I AM GRATIFIED THAT PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN VOLUNTEERS IS ON THE INCREASE AND AS A RESULT OF EFFORTS OF PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR AND HIS STAFF WE ARE MAKING PROGRESS IN HAVING THEM ASSIGNED TO TASK WHICH ARE NON-TRADITIONAL FOR WOMEN IN NEPAL. ANOTHER POSITIVE TREND WHICH REFLECTS OUR INTEREST IN RURAL AND REMOTE AREAS IS THAT PERCENTAGE OF VOLUNTEERS ASSIGNED TO WESTERN NEPAL HAS SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED IN LAST TWO YEARS. THERE IS ALSO A GOOD MIX OF PEACE CORPS EFFORT WITH THAT OF OTHER DONORS INCLUDING USAID AND VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF UN APPARATUS IN NEPAL. PEACE CORPS IS CURRENTLY INVOLVED IN SEVERAL PROJECTS FOR WHICH FUNDING AND/OR TECHNICAL SUPPORT IS PROVIDED BY THIRD PARTIES, AND BOTH PEACE CORPS AND GON AGREE THAT THIS PATTERN OF RELATIONSHIPS HAS MUTUALLY SUPPORTIVE ADVANTAGES. FINALLY, PEACE CORPS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAS ACTED AS A CATALYST TO ENCOURAGE CONCEPT OF VOLUNTEERISM IN NEPAL.

5. PRESENT PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR IS VALUED MEMBER OF COUNTRY TEAM. I LOOK FORWARD TO HAVING SAME CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS SUCCESSOR WHO I TRUST WILL BE NOMINATED SOON. MY THOUGHTS ON QUALIFICATIONS RELEVANT TO NEPAL WHICH I BELIEVE ARE DESIRABLE FOR THIS IMPORTANT JOB ARE BEING SUBMITTED IN SEPARATE MESSAGE.
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